

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

4 September 1981
MPA #1034

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- August 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Managua portion of the Central American remote system was out of order from 2020 GMT 25 August to 1800 GMT 31 August when the Managua embassy's main cable trunk was cut.

Service to El Salvador and Guatemala using the SSS system was not effected, and Nicaraguan programs were mostly recovered, with poorer reception, using local antennas and QRL interference suppressors.

✓ { 2. Nicaragua's "Forum for Discussion of National Problems," which had generated interesting insights into Sandinist and opposition views of the country's future, seemed in its death throes during the month due to procedural wrangling. }

3. The Panama Automated Relay was troubled with frequent outages during the month due to equipment problems. Service was interrupted nine times for a total of 13 1/2 hours.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [redacted] and spouse arrived on PCS 17 August. Bruce reSTAT
places [redacted] STAT

2. [redacted] arrived on PCS 24 August to assume the duties of Chief, Panama Bureau. STAT

- 2 -

3. Senior Editor [] and family departed 31 August on STAT PCS. His next assignment will be in Headquarters.

4. [] have STAT been selected from among various applicants to fill the two additional monitorial positions authorized by Headquarters. Pre-employment processing is under way.

III. VIVISTS

1. The Director of the Humint Collection Office, as well as Melville Blake, DCM, and Garrett Sweany, political officer, of the American Embassy Panama on 26 August.

2. FBIS engineer [] on 28 August for an indefinite period of STAT TDY.

3. Fred Lecker, regional security officer, American Embassy Panama, on 31 August.

[] STAT

Acting Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report
Operations Attachment
Engineering Attachment